



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0266

1764

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki ICHIKAWA, et al
Title: REFORMING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: 09/864,230
Filing Date: 05/25/2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 1764

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Any document listed on the attached PTO-1449 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner.

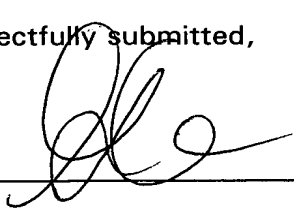
English-language translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. The absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609). An English language abstract for document A3 is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date NOV 07 2001

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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 040302-0266		SERIAL NO. 09/864,230		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Hiroyuki ICHIKAWA, et al				
				FILING DATE 05/25/2001		GROUP ART UNIT 1764		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	B1	4,789,540	12/06/88	Jenkins	423	648.1		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	B2	0 921 585 A2	06/09/99	EPO				X
	B3	99/31012	06/24/99	WIPO			Abstract	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	B4	Yamamoto, K., "Method for Starting Gas Reformer," Patent Abstracts of Japan, 6-305702, 11/01/94, (Abstract only).						
	B5	Atsumi, T., "Fuel Reforming Catalyst," Patent Abstracts of Japan, 2000-042412, 02/15/00, (Abstract only).						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				
* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								